

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Thursday, August 31st 2017. **Topic: GIVING**

This is the first part on our study on giving and I believe it will eventually lead us into discussions on Tithing.

If today’s church lack anything, one of the major thing is generousity. When I talk about the church I mean the church corporate and the individual as a unit of the church. On these sides, the church corporate has failed more than the individual. God is a giver and He expects us to give. My aim for this study is not to create a money-making machine for the church but to let us know and understand God’s standard which He requires from us when it comes to giving.

**Pre-amble:**

Every giving should largely help enhance this scripture; **Matthew 5:16**. *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*. This includes every type of giving including your tithe which I believe is unfortunately over-emphasized. (When it comes to the discussion on tithe, be careful about the bible you use). As you will get to discover, tithe pre-dates the law as it was practiced by Abraham long before Moses gave the Law. However, when it was mentioned by Moses the purpose of tithe was actually fragmented **(Deut 14:22-29).** One portion tells you that the people were supposed to bring their tithes and celebrate with it. No wonder Malachi says so that there will be meat in God’s house. Another portion was to be used to help the Levites, the widows, the strangers, the fatherless etc. In this case, it was not even supposed to be sent to the temple but stored within the city gates. **Deut 14:28-29** (28 “At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. 29 And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.) This appears to me like God’s way of making sure that everyone is fed. Compare this to Lev 19:9, 23:22, Deut 24:19.

My wife pointed something out to me which is very important. She said If it is true that the tithe was supposed to be used both for the people, how come the law of the land as we see it today says we cannot use church money to help the members of the church and the church fell for it?

**ASSIGNMENT: As we leave the issue of tithe, I want to give us an assignment and that is that we should all go home and using the KJV or NKJV, please list and study every scripture that says something about tithe.**

**OUTLINE:**

God is the one who ordained generosity by been generous Himself. John 3:16.

We are God’s partners: I Cor 3:9, II Cor 5:20

A partner is in the partnership to achieve the goal of the organization.

In this partnership, we are not owners but stewards:

Who is a steward: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

What is required from a steward: I Cor 4:1-2?

Every steward renders account at some point in their stewardship. Matt 25:14-30

What are we stewards over?

Our life: Acts 17:25, I Cor 6:19, Gal 2:20, Job 33:4

Our Time: Psalm 90:12, Eph 5:15-16, Col 4:5

Our Talents and Abilities: I Pet5 4:10, I Cor 12:4-7,11

Our Possessions: Matt 6:19-21, Col 3:1-2

Our Finances: I Tim 6:6-10, 17-19, Matt 6:24

The Gospel: I Cor 4:1, 9:16-17, I Tim 6:20.

Why should we give

The Bible has asked us to give: Duet 15:7,8, Prov 3:27-28, Matt 5:42, Rom 12:13, Luke 3:11, II Cor 9:6

God owns the earth: Psalm 24:1, Psalm 89:11, Job 41:11, I Chron 29:10-14.

Giving sets the church apart from the world: Acts 2:44, Deut 14:28-29

God will bless us when we give: Matt 6:4 Prov 11:25, 13:7b, 14:21, Mk 10:21, Duet 15:10, Prov 11:24a, Isaiah 58:10-11, Luke 6:38, Matt 25:40.

God is very interested when we give to the poor; Prov 19:17, Prov 22:9, Prov 28:27a

Giving especially to believers: Rom 15:26, Gal 6:10, Phil 4:15-16,

How do we give (Principles of Giving)

Give freely: Matt: 10:8,

Systematically: 1Cor 16:2

Possibly in secret: Matt: 6:1-4

With Simplicity: Rom 12:8,

Cheerfully: II Cor 9:7

According to your income: Deut 16:17, 2Cor 8: 12, Acts11:29, I Tim 6:17-19.

Finally, what is the function of the Church in the giving chain: Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:34-35, Acts 6:1I Tim 5:4,16.

CONCLUSION: Are you a hoarder or a giver? How do you feel when people rejoice after you have given to them. IS the church playing her role correctly on our time in the issue of giving? Are we still in the distribution business and we are simply hoarders? Giving brings joy t the giver and the receiver. A church or any body of belivers is bound to fail if they cannot give or if giving is not properly handled.